

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 10th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Agee, James</b>	<b>Death in the Family</b>	A recount of a family for the first few days after the accidental death of the 35-year-old husband and father.
<b>Austen, Jane</b>	<b>Emma</b>	Emma is convinced that she understands the world, she rules over her invalid father and the small circle of Highbury with well-meaning tyranny. But she is highly fallible where love is concerned.
<b>Beah, Ishmael</b>	<b>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</b>	Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States
<b>Beals, Melba Patillo</b>	<b>Warriors Don't Cry</b>	From the diaries she kept, Melba Beals, one of the nine black students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, AR, in 1957, tells her story.
<b>Benitez, Sandra</b>	<b>A Place Where the Sea Remembers</b>	The novel begins with the wait for a drowned body to float to shore--and works backwards, retracing the myriad, seemingly insignificant steps that led to the character's death.
<b>Block, Francesca</b>	<b>Weetzie Bat</b>	In this coming-of-age tale, a group of eccentric characters search for their eclectic dreams.
<b>Burns, Olive Ann</b>	<b>Cold Sassy Tree</b>	A novel full of warm humor and honesty is told by Willy Tweedy, a fourteen-year-old boy living in a small, turn-of-the-century Georgia town.
<b>Butler, Octavia</b>	<b>Parable of the Sower</b>	The odyssey of a sensitive young woman in a world that has become almost completely dehumanized. Set in California in the years 2024 through 2027.
<b>Cameron, Peter</b>	<b>Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You</b>	Eighteen-year-old James, who lives in New York City with his older sister and divorced mother, struggles to find a direction for his life.
<b>Chevalier, Tracy</b>	<b>Girl with a Pearl Earring</b>	The life of sixteen-year-old Griet is transformed forever when she goes to work as a maid in the home of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, and catches the eye of the famous artist.
<b>Christie, Agatha</b>	<b>And Then There Were None</b>	The story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets--until they begin to die.
<b>Clark, Mary Higgins</b>	<b>On the Street Where You Live</b>	Is a reincarnated serial killer at work in a New Jersey resort town more than a century after he first drew blood?
<b>Clarke, Arthur C.</b>	<b>Childhood's End</b>	When the Overlords first came to Earth, they brought peace and prosperity with them, but it soon became apparent that their purpose was the elimination of the human race.

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<b>Crutcher, Chris</b>	<b>Running Loose</b>	A boy's senior year in high school goes awry when he's kicked off the football team for taking a stand against the coach, and his girlfriend is killed in a car accident.
<b>Darnton, John</b>	<b>Neanderthal</b>	Neanderthal combines breathtaking suspense, thorough scientific research, and dazzling storytelling as archaeologists and rival governments attempt to track down a relic band of creatures. Fans of Indiana Jones will enjoy this tale!
<b>Danticat, Edwidge</b>	<b>Breath, Eyes, Memory</b>	Sophie Caco, a child who was born of rape, leaves Haiti at the age of twelve to join her mother in New York City, where they both battle with the results of sexual abuse.
<b>Delany, Sarah Louise</b>	<b>Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years</b>	Chronicles the experiences of two African-American women growing up in North Carolina at the turn-of-the-century.
<b>Dickens, Charles</b>	<b>Great Expectations</b>	An unknown person has provided money for the education of Pip, a poor English boy, in nineteenth-century England.
<b>Feinstein, John</b>	<b>Last Shot: Final Four Mystery</b>	The setting is college basketball's Final Four, and the stars are the two teenage winners of a writing contest, whose prize is an opportunity to cover the games. They overhear one of the players being coerced into throwing the title game.
<b>Flake, Sharon</b>	<b>Bang!</b>	After the death of his six-year-old son in a ghetto shooting, Mann's father made every effort to toughen up his surviving son: "If he's gonna be a man, he's gonna have to learn to chew nails and hold a gun in his hand." Approximating an African coming-of-age ritual, he abandons Mann and his friend Kee-Lee at a distant campsite. The experiment ends in tragedy.
<b>Golding, William</b>	<b>Lord of the Flies</b>	After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy.
<b>Grogan, John</b>	<b>Marley and Me</b>	Grogan's chronicle of the adventures parents and children (eventually three) enjoyed with the overly energetic but endearing dog is delivered with great humor. Dog lovers will love this account of Grogan's much loved canine.
<b>Hersey, John</b>	<b>Hiroshima</b>	An account of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, from the viewpoint of the people who lived through it.
<b>Hillerman, Tony</b>	<b>Skinwalkers</b>	Three shotgun blasts explode into the trailer of Officer Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police. But Chee survives to join partner Lt. Joe Leaphorn in a frightening investigation that takes them into a dark world of ritual, witchcraft, and blood -- all tied to the elusive and evil "skinwalker."

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Jordan, Hillary	Mudbound	It is 1946 in the Mississippi Delta, where Memphis-bred Laura McAllan is struggling to adjust to farm life. Her brother in-law and his friend have returned from the war changed men and catastrophe becomes inevitable. A heart-rending story of deep, mindless prejudice and cruelty.
Keillor, Garrison	Good Poems	Good Poems selects 350 pieces of verse from among the thousands that have been read on NPR's "Writer's Almanac." They include selections from Burns, Dickinson, Bishop, Williams, Shakespeare, Robert Hass, Lisel Mueller, Tom Disch, among many others.
Kesey, Ken	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Chief Bromden's story of life in a mental hospital. Bromden's strictly ordered environment is disrupted by the introduction of a force of unwavering individuality, a new patient named Randle Patrick McMurphy. McMurphy soon galvanizes the other patients against Nurse Ratched's oppressive control, but things turn sour as the patients' personal independence collides with Nurse Ratched's authoritarian power.
Kingsolver, Barbara	The Bean Trees	Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. She heads west with high hopes and by the time she arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity of putting down roots.
Mariko, Tamaki	Skim	Wiccan goth teen Kimberly Keiko Cameron sinks into a growing depression after her classmate's ex-boyfriend kills himself, sparking a school revolution that forces all the students to redefine themselves.
McBride, James	The Color of Water	The story of James McBride and his mother--a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a church, and put 12 children through college.
McCullers, Carson	A Member of the Wedding	The story of the inimitable twelve-year-old Frankie, who is utterly, hopelessly bored with life until she hears about her older brother's wedding.
Myers, Walter Dean	The Glory Field	Follows a family's two-hundred year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.
Nordhoff, Charles	Mutiny on the Bounty	The story of the <i>Bounty's</i> fateful voyage, William Bligh, the ship's brilliant but harsh, unyielding captain, and Fletcher Christian, the instigator of mutiny.

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<b>Paton, Alan</b>	<b>Cry, the Beloved Country</b>	Accused of murdering a white man, a young black man in South Africa is helped by his minister father and by a white attorney, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice from being done.
<b>Rinaldi, Ann</b>	<b>In My Father's House</b>	For two sisters growing up surrounded by the Civil War, there is conflict both outside and inside their house.
<b>Shaara, Michael</b>	<b>Killer Angels</b>	A fictional account of four days in July, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg discussing tactics, plans, and preparations for battle from both the Northern and Southern points of view.
<b>Satrap, Marjane</b>	<b>Persepolis</b>	Marjane Satrapi recounts her childhood and coming of age in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution, as well as her self-imposed exile from her native country, through comic strips that reflect how her own history is tied to the history of Iran.
<b>Shakespeare, William</b>	<b>As You Like It</b>	Shakespeare's delightful comedy about the banished princess who falls in love at first sight with a poor but brave young man
<b>Smith, Dennis</b>	<b>Report from Ground Zero</b>	In this account of the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center, retired New York City firefighter Dennis Smith gives a remarkable eyewitness account of perhaps the most heroic and desperate collaborative disaster effort in recent history.
<b>Steinbeck, John</b>	<b>Of Mice and Men</b>	Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California.
<b>Stevenson, Robert L.</b>	<b>Treasure Island</b>	While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.
<b>Taylor, Theodore</b>	<b>The Bomb</b>	A teenager takes the safety of a whole island into his own hands, trying to stop tests of the atomic bomb.
<b>Tomlinson, Joe</b>	<b>Extreme Sports: In Search of the Ultimate Thrill</b>	A variety of extreme to mega-extreme sports such as sky flying, caving, and free-diving, the history of the sport as well as some of the greats who have competed are recounted.
<b>Wideman, John</b>	<b>Philadelphia Fire</b>	The 1985 police bombing of a West Philadelphia row house owned by the back-to-nature, Afrocentric cult known as Move, killed eleven people and started a fire that destroyed sixty other houses.
<b>Wiesel, Elie</b>	<b>Night</b>	A true account of the author's experiences as a Jewish boy with his family in a Nazi concentration camp.
<b>Wilson, August</b>	<b>Fences</b>	Troy Maxson, a proud black man, struggles to leave his terrible memories of the 1950's behind so that he can learn to live in the more liberating time of the 1960's.

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<b>X, Malcolm</b>	<b>Autobiography of Malcolm X</b>	Malcolm X, the Black Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells his life story to veteran writer and journalist Alex Haley.
<b>Yolen, Jane</b>	<b>Briar Rose</b>	A powerful and moving novel that deftly blends the legend of Sleeping Beauty with the historical tragedy of the Holocaust.
<b>Zusak, Markus</b>	<b>The Book Thief</b>	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.